

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 23-26 as follows.

Claims 1-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a stacked piezoelectric element by alternately stacking a plurality of layers of an electrode material and piezoelectric layers having an electro-mechanical energy converting function and provided with penetrating electrodes, which are obtained by forming through holes in each piezoelectric layer and filling such through holes with the electrode material, to be connected at a contact portion with a layer of the electrode material and sintering the thus stacked layers, comprising a step of:

forming, on a first layer of the electrode material, a second layer of electrode material ~~by printing~~ at a peripheral area of the contact portion between the first layer of the electrode material and the penetrating electrodes.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a stacked piezoelectric element by alternately stacking a plurality of layers of an electrode material and piezoelectric layers having an electro-mechanical energy converting function and provided with penetrating electrodes, which are obtained by forming through holes in each piezoelectric layer and filling such through holes with the electrode material, to be connected at a contact portion with a layer of the electrode material and sintering the thus stacked layers, comprising a step of:

forming, on a first layer of the electrode material, a second layer of electrode material ~~by printing~~, at the contact portion on a connecting surface of the penetrating electrodes and at a peripheral portion thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a stacked piezoelectric element by alternately stacking a plurality of layers of an electrode material and piezoelectric layers having an electro-mechanical energy converting function and provided with penetrating electrodes, which are obtained by forming through holes in each piezoelectric layer and filling such through holes with the electrode material, to be connected at a contact portion with a layer of the electrode material and sintering the thus stacked layers, comprising a step of:

forming a second layer of electrode material which is thicker than a first layer of the electrode material ~~by printing~~ on the piezoelectric layer at a peripheral portion of a contact area between two penetrating electrodes.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a stacked piezoelectric element by alternately stacking a plurality of layers of an electrode material and piezoelectric layers having an electro-mechanical energy converting function and provided with penetrating electrodes, which are obtained by forming through holes in each piezoelectric layer and filling such through holes with the electrode material, to be connected at a contact portion with a layer of the electrode material and sintering the thus stacked layers, comprising a step of:

forming a second layer of electrode material which is thicker than a first layer of the electrode material ~~by printing~~ at a peripheral area of the contact portion between the first layer of the electrode material and the penetrating electrodes.